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Jim Silver to Jim, 2 December 1956

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Recommended Citation

Silver (1907-1988), James W. (James Wesley), "Jim Silver to Jim, 2 December 1956" (1956). *Correspondence*. 482.
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December 2, 1956

Dear Jim:

I shall be pleased, of course, to autograph and send the books as you requested. But I'm not quite clear as to exactly what you want in the book that is to go to the president of Wofford College. [His name is Francis Pendleton Gaines, Jr. and he is the son of the president of Washington and Lee.] But what I am not clear about is whether you want Colonel Robinson's name in the dedication to Dr. Gaines. Are there two "b's" in the colonel's name? Robinson, as your letter has it, or Robinson, which is the normal spelling. If they are close friends, might it not be better to leave off the "Dr." and even the "Colonel?" Of course, if I leave off the "Colonel" I ought to know his first name.

I don't like to trouble you with all this but I am sure that you would rather have it exactly as you want it. I shall be glad to have the other three volumes ready for Kathleen, and if she does not come by in a few days, I'll call her.

I don't know whether you noticed, a month or so ago, some articles in the Jackson papers about a talk I made in Jackson, Tennessee. After Mr. Sullens' rather nasty remarks, the Board of Trustees asked me for a copy of my speech. I sent them my notes and the best summary I could make of the speech. What had happened was that the AP in Jackson, Tenn. had sent out what the president of the McCowan-Mercer Press in Jackson termed a "completely distorted" story on my talk. Then Mr. Sullens (and also Tom Ethridge) proceeded to distort the remarks still further and to draw some rather uncomplimentary conclusions. Fortunately for me, I suppose, the Jackson, Tenn. paper had carried an extremely accurate account of the talk and I was able to send the Board a copy of that. Anyway, there didn't seem to be any way for me to remedy the gross injustice done me by the papers, though I was tempted to send to some of my friends, including you, a copy of my remarks to the Board. But I finally decided that my best course was to keep quiet about the whole thing. I do understand, now, how it is possible to assassinate a person's character in the press, with that person not having a ghost of a chance to undo the wrong. I did talk with a lawyer here who advised me against suing the Jackson papers.

Am pleased to hear from you again, and I shall await your pleasure in regard to the autograph.

Sincerely,

Jim Silver